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Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

Letter dated 14 April 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, issued on 12 April 2008, regarding the recent anti-Ukrainian statements of the high officials of the Russian Federation related to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine (see annex).

Considering that the position expressed by the Russian Federation may have unpredictable consequences for peace and security, I kindly ask you to circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 12.

(*Signed*) Yuriy **Sergeyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 14 April 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine regarding the anti-Ukrainian statements by the officials of the Russian Federation

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine is seriously concerned by the recent statements made by the officials of the Russian Federation concerning Ukraine.

Those statements, of a clearly anti-Ukrainian character, question the territorial integrity of Ukraine and constitute direct interference in its internal affairs.

We emphasize once again that Ukraine is a sovereign State which independently determines its internal and foreign policy, whose objective is to provide security and protection of its own national interests.

It is the fundamental principle of the foreign policy of Ukraine to strengthen and expand the relationship of equality and partnership with all nations, first of all with neighbouring countries, in compliance with the universally recognized norms of international law and the Charter of the United Nations in particular. Desiring to strengthen international peace and security, Ukraine abandoned its nuclear weapons arsenal, the third largest in the world. In their turn, the nuclear States, including the Russian Federation, gave Ukraine security guarantees under the 1994 Budapest Memorandum.

It is absolutely inadmissible for the Russian Federation, as one of the parties to the Memorandum and a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, which is responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, to undertake unfriendly steps towards Ukraine, questioning its territorial integrity and its sovereign rights to make decisions concerning its own foreign policy preferences.

In this situation it becomes increasingly obvious that the Euro-Atlantic choice of Ukraine is the only way to guarantee the security of the State. Therefore, Ukraine should accelerate the process of its integration into NATO as a framework of the collective security system.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine demands that the Russian side cease its practice of threats towards Ukraine and abide by the provisions of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between our two countries. That Treaty, in particular, envisages commitments regarding mutual respect for sovereign equality, territorial integrity, inviolability of borders, not threatening the use of force and non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

Ukraine, abiding by the rules of the international law, will undertake all necessary measures to protect its sovereignty and independence.